

SOFTWARE REVIEW

VA-CALC(S) by Psion

The spreadsheet type programs (Visi-calc and its clones) are one of the most popular utilities for microcomputers for business and home financial use. A large part of a small businessperson's time is spent processing columns of figures on sales and expenses to determine whether or not he has made (or is projected to make) a profit. Software to take the tedium out of this work can be quite appealing.

VU-CALC is the "official" T/S entry into this field. I should say entries since there are 2 programs marketed under the same name. Both are produced by Psion. The first VU-CALC (I'll call it V1) is written entirely in BASIC. It may be slightly more adaptable since you can vary the size of the numbers that are entered and the size of the displayed portion of the spreadsheet. Only a small portion of the resulting spreadsheet is displayed. The full size of the resulting table varies from 20x20 to 32x32.

The other VU-CALC (V2) is written in machine code and as a result it is much faster handling. It is much easier to enter names, numbers and formulas. Its grid size is a fixed 36 (across) by 26 (down). It can also handle larger number processing formulas.

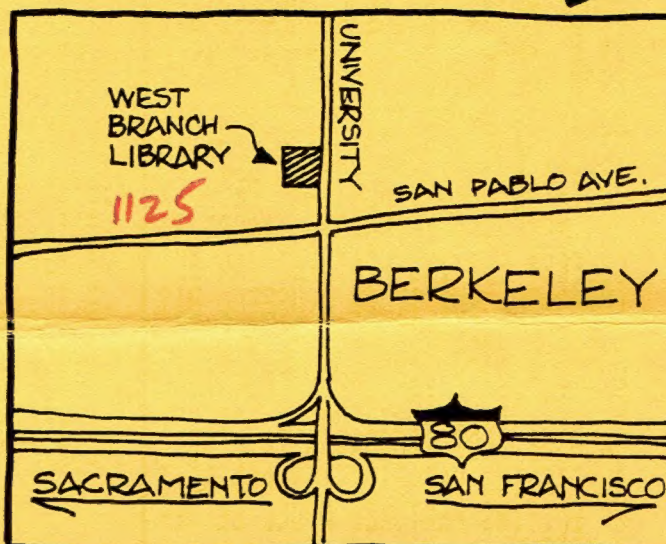
There are packaging differences between the programs I've seen marketed as ZX81 software. I have not seen the T/S VU-CALC so I don't know whether it is V1 or V2 (or V3).

Most of my experience is with V2. To test it I entered the figures for a hypothetical small business. Across the top I entered categories for expenses (e.g. rent, inventory, salaries, etc.), income and cumulated profit or loss. These figures were projected month by month. The power of the program comes in being able to make projections by varying the numbers and formulas. For example, I can ask what will be my break even point if sales will grow by 5% per month. Once my spreadsheet is set up I can change the formula for rate of change in sales and answer this question in seconds. Previously it may have taken hours of calculations to get this answer.

I have never used Visi-calc or any of the Visi-clones. People who've used them have told me that VU-CALC is not as powerful or adaptable. The spreadsheets are not as large and the formulas & commands are limited in comparison. However, I am enthusiastic about VU-CALC(s). It is perfectly adequate for the home and many small businesses. Used properly a small businessperson will be able to afford an IBM PC in no time.

Joel Brody

NEXT MEETING ↗



January 20, 1983 Meeting starts 7:30p
West Branch Berkeley Library

BAZUG 83

READER SURVEY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: () _____

HARDWARE: TIMEX/SINCLAIR ()
ZX/81 ()
ZX/80 ()
MICRO ACE ()
1K RAM ()
2K RAM ()
4K RAM ()
16K RAM ()
64K RAM ()

OTHER: _____

PRINTER ()

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- () I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF BAZUG AND RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER
- () I WOULD ONLY LIKE THE NEWSLETTER AT A LOWER ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FEE
- () SEND NEWSLETTER ONLY IF FREE
- () PLEASE STOP SENDING NEWSLETTER

PORTIONS OF THIS NEWSLETTER WERE PRINTED ON THE CAI/P40 PRINTER. THANK YOU JACQUES LAUFER FOR ALL THE PAPER YOU LET US WASTE.

ROBOTTEK

Computer Systems

TOM KILPATRICK

10545 B SAN PABLO

EL CERRITO, CA 94530

(415) 524-3730

WORD PROCESSING ON THE ZX81?

A NUMBER OF ARTICLES IN THIS NEW SLETTER HAVE BEEN WRITTEN WITH THE *WORD JUGGLER* PROGRAM FOR THE ZX81. THE PROGRAM COMES FROM THE BOOK *THE SINCLAIR ZX81: PROGRAMMING FOR REAL APPLICATIONS* BY RANDLE HURLEY (AVAILABLE FROM THE BAZUG LIBRARY). THE PROGRAM IS IN BASIC SO IT IS A BIT SLOW, BUT IT CAN EASILY KEEP UP WITH ME WHEN I HUNT AND PECK ON MY MEMBRANE KEYBOARD. *WORD JUGGLERS* EDITING FEATURES CAN BE IMPROVED, BUT IT IS A USEFUL BIT OF SOFTWARE THAT HAS TAUGHT ME QUITE A BIT ABOUT WORD PROCESSING. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A FASTER MACHINE CODE PROGRAM WITH LINE JUSTIFYING CAPABILITIES AND BETTER EDITING FEATURES WOULD BE VERY USEFUL.

BRING ALONG A TAPE AND I WILL BE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU A COPY OF THIS PROGRAM AT THE NEXT MEETING.

THE DECEMBER BYTE MAGAZINE REPORTS SOME INTERESTING NEWS ABOUT THE COMPUTER PRICE REVOLUTION LED BY THE T/S LINE. CASIO MAY BE INTRODUCING A \$63 PERSONAL COMPUTER IN JAPAN. TWO OTHER JAPANESE COMPANIES, NEC AND PANASONIC, HAVE CHANGED THEIR PLANS BECAUSE THE T/S 1000 HAS TAKEN SALES AWAY FROM COMMODORE, TI AND ATARI. BOTH FIRMS WERE ABOUT TO INTRODUCE MACHINES IN THE \$300-\$500 RANGE, BUT THEY HAVE DECIDED TO REDUCE THEIR PRICE BEFORE THEY ARE RELEASED. SANYO EXPECTS TO MARKET A COMPUTER NEXT AUGUST THAT WILL COMPETE WITH TIMEX/SINCLAIR.

JOEL BRODY

TREASURERS REPORT -----

ON JANUARY 1, 1983 THE TREASURER HELD \$45.17. IT IS OVER PAYING TIME AGAIN. A DECISION WAS MADE AT THE LAST MEETING TO MAKE JANUARY AND JULY SPECIAL DISCOUNT PERIODS FOR SIX MONTH MEMBERSHIPS. SO LONG AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT IS RECEIVED BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE NEXT MONTH YOU RECEIVE 6 MONTHS MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PRICE OF 5, OR INSTEAD OF \$6. YOU MAY PAY THE TREASURER AT THE NEXT MEETING OR SEND \$5 ALONG WITH THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO W.B. BUCHANAN TO:

W.B. BUCHANAN
1648 PORTLAND
BERKELEY, CA 94707

OF COURSE THOSE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING TO PAY \$1 A MONTH MAY DO SO. IF YOU HAVE A SIX MONTH MEMBERSHIP THAT HAS NOT EXPIRED SEE BRUCE (PAID AFTER THE 6/18/82 MEETING).

EASY SAVE / AUTO-RUN

HERE IS A NEAT AND EASY WAY TO SAVE PROGRAMS INSPIRED BY AN ARTICLE I READ IN SINCLINK BY L. E. SHEILDS. WHEN ADDED, THESE LINES PROTECT VARIABLES BY ALWAYS STARTING YOUR PROGRAM FROM THE CORRECT ADDRESS. YOU ALSO DO NOT NEED A REM STATEMENT LISTING THE PROGRAM NAME; IT IS PRESENT IN THE SAVE STATEMENT. ENTER THE FOLLOWING LINES AT THE END OF YOUR PROGRAM:

XX STOP (ONLY IF NEEDED*)

YY SAVE "PROGRAM NAME"

ZZ GOTO AA (THAT ADDRESS THAT STARTS YOUR PROGRAM CORRECTLY)

REMEMBER TO REPLACE XX, YY, ZZ, AND AA WITH THE APPROPRIATE NUMBERED ADDRESSES. IF YOUR PROGRAM DOES NOT NEED A STOP STATEMENT AS IN XX (SEE *) IT CAN BE ELIMINATED; EQUALLY YOU CAN ELIMINATE AN EARLIER, REDUNDANT STOP STATEMENT. HAVE FUN.

BRUCE BUCHANAN

See... enjoy Timex technology in color at prices you won't believe!

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The TIMEX SINCLAIR 2000 computers are ready to expand your family's horizons in education, work, recreation, personal and

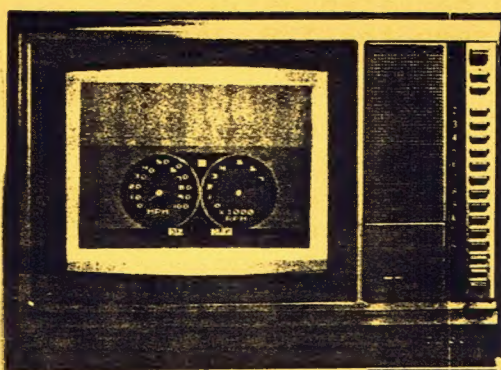
professional enrichment. With a comprehensive library of exciting software, your TIMEX SINCLAIR 2000 computer is sure to become your family's entertainment/resource center.

There never was a better time to own a personal color computer, because Timex offers two color units ready for instant application in all areas of family computing needs. The TIMEX SINCLAIR 2000 computers offer you a choice of 16K or 48K Random Access Memory.

Both TIMEX SINCLAIR 2000 computers feature color and sound, moving-key keyboard, and high-resolution graphics... all self contained and easy to attach to your own color TV set.

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LOW PRICE — The T/S 2000 computers offer fully competing features at a price you expect from Timex.



It's almost here

TIMEX REP AT NEXT BAZUG MEETING

BIG NEWS FROM TIMEX

SPECTRUM (T/S 2000) IN APRIL

SAM BARRON, TIMEX COMPUTER CORP. DISTRICT SALES MGR. FOR N. CAL., WILL BE AT THE JAN. 20 BAZUG MEETING. SAM WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND MAY BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE SOME NEW HARDWARE. THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE HE CAN DEMONSTRATE THE NEW T/S THERMAL PRINTER. THE REALLY EXCITING POSSIBILITY (AND I EMPHASIZE POSSIBILITY) IS THAT HE MAY HAVE A T/

S 2000 TO SHOW US. THE T/S 2000 IS THE AMERICAN VERSION OF THE SINCLAIR SPECTRUM. IT IS BEING INTRODUCED THIS MONTH AT THE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW IN LAS VEGAS. IT IS SCHEDULED TO BE SHIPPED TO STORES IN APRIL. THE PRICE HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT RUMORS ARE THAT IT WILL BE VERY REASONABLE. THE 48K VERSION MAY BE ABOUT \$100 LESS THAN ITS ENGLISH EQUIVALENT. THIS WOULD BE A REAL BREAKTHROUGH IN AFFORDABILITY OF COMPUTING POWER.

THE T/S 1000 WILL STILL BE SOLD. THERE WILL BE A T/S 1500 WHICH WILL BE THE T/S 1000 WITH 16K OF INTERNAL MEMORY. THE SPECTRUM CAUSED A ZX81 PRICE CUT AFTER ITS INTRODUCTION IN ENGLAND.

SAM SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE US A LOT MORE DETAILS ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS THAT A LOT OF US HAVE BEEN EAGERLY AWAITING. LETS GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME AND SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR TIMEX SUPPORT OF USERS GROUPS.

COMMENTS ON SQ (Syntax Quarterly)

by Woody McPheeters

There was a surprise in my mail last week---the premier issue of SQ. This was apparently a present from the Harvard Group, publishers of Syntax, an informal mimeo style monthly newsletter devoted to the ZX80 and ZX81. It's a big step up for the Group, in both format (glossy magazine) and style (tightly edited and written). I was much impressed with both its "Departments" (intended as regular features) and with the articles, especially with part one of a two part-er written by John Oliger and titled: Build Your Own EPROM Programmer & Centronics Printer Interface". Real praise is green and crinkly according to Heinlein, and I've just subscribed to the SQ.

The first installment of the featured "Department" on "Beginner's BASIC" cleared up a long standing confusion I wasn't even fully consciouw of---namely, the difference in meaning of "=" in algebraic equations vs. in LET statements (where it could be better translated as "means" or "now be", etc.) Also extended was my appreciation of the fact that BASIC variables are labels for physical memory addresses which are assigned and kept track of by programming features in the complete BASIC package.

However, back to the article on hardware by John Oliger, which has really refired my interest in the ZX81---the same interest which had really flagged when I found that noone, neither Sinclair nor anyone else, was going to publish a proper hardware manual for the ZX81. I am still willing to badmouth Sinclair for this omission, but that is another story.

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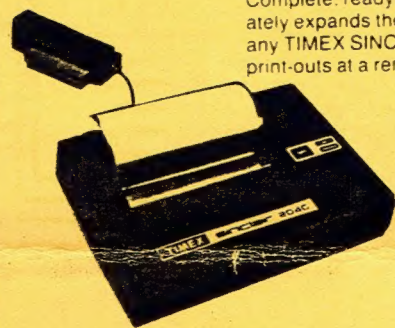
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Available soon!

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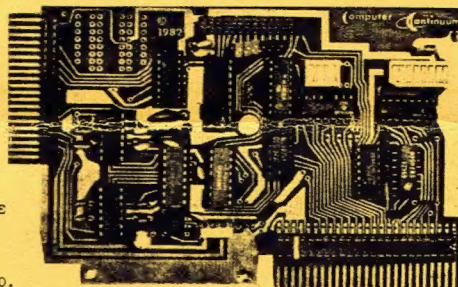
new

ANALOG

INTERFACE BOARD 8 channels A to D + D to A

fast 2.5 μ s A/D CONVERSION TIME. 8 BIT RESOLUTION.

8 CONTINUOUS ANALOG OUTPUTS
0-2.56V (0-5V W/EXT. V_{CC}).
8 ANALOG INPUTS 0-5V.
ADDRESS PICKS CHANNEL.
DIP SWITCHES SELECT MEMORY OR
I/O MAPPING AS WELL AS WHICH
BLOCK OF ADDRESSES ARE USED.
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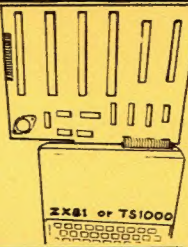


BUFFERED BUS / DEVELOPMENT BOARD KIT \$65. Bare Board \$40 w/CONNECTOR & MANUAL.

UHF Modulator RIDS VIDEO INTERFERENCE. REPLACES VHF MODULATOR. \$15

CONNECTORS FOR 50 WIRE RIBBON. FEMALE TO ZX \$7. MALE TO PERIPHERALS \$7. GOLD PLATED. ELIMINATES VIBRATION PROBLEMS. USE BOTH CONNECTORS TO AVOID ROW INVERSION PROBLEMS.

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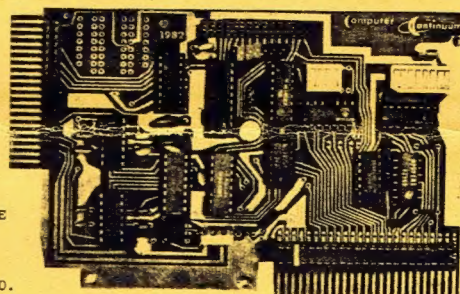
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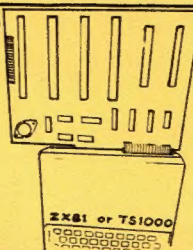


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